

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 703
By McCord

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend H. Dean Stone for
laudable service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as journalists and community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is H. Dean Stone, who has served *The Maryville-Alcoa Daily Times* for 55 exemplary years; having previously served as Sunday Editor and as Managing Editor, he currently leads the staff as Editor; and

WHEREAS, during Mr. Stone's tenure with *The Daily Times*, the paper has been a prime property among smaller dailies across the nation; it has won more than 30 first-place awards in the University of Tennessee/Tennessee Press Association annual statewide competition, and has won a similar number of awards from the Tennessee Associated Press Managing Editors Association; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1950s, he pioneered what eventually became *The Times Townsend Traveler*, a regional, tabloid-sized tourist information publication that provides

information about the Townsend area of the Great Smoky Mountains; at the time of its founding, the *Townsend Traveler* was one of the first such publications in the nation; and

WHEREAS, in 1965, Mr. Stone authored a newsroom handbook, "Newspapers: Making the Most of the News Department," which was published by Southern Newspapers, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the consummate journalist, H. Dean Stone was awarded a national commendation by the Associated Press Managing Editors Association for his byline reporting of the August 1959 earthquake that killed 28 people at Yellowstone National Park; the only newsman in the park at the time, he was the first to report it, and he covered the story from inside the park for the first 24 hours; and

WHEREAS, he has won countless other professional awards, including his recent recognition as an Outstanding Graduate of the University of Oklahoma School of Journalism; and

WHEREAS, a native of Blount County, Mr. Stone was born to A. H. and Annie Cupp Stone; he attended Everett Schools for 12 years, graduating from Everett High School in 1942; and

WHEREAS, during his years at Everett High School, Mr. Stone played for the only undefeated football team in the 55-year history of the school; in addition, he was a member of the Glee Club and was Co-Sports Editor of the *Blue and Gray* school newspaper; and

WHEREAS, he attended Maryville College for one year, but he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism from the University of Oklahoma, where he minored in History; during his tenure at OU, he was assistant sports editor of the school's *Oklahoma Daily*, and he worked as an Associated Press correspondent; and

WHEREAS, upon returning to Maryville, Mr. Stone began his career with *The Maryville-Alcoa Daily Times*, as he accepted the position of Sunday editor; and

WHEREAS, highlights of his tenure with the paper include giving Lamar Alexander his first job, and being a good acquaintance of fellow journalist Albert Gore, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his work with *The Daily Times*, Mr. Stone is the owner and operator of Stonecraft, a local-view postcard company that he founded in 1954 in an effort to share the beauty of the Smokies area with tourists through top-quality postcards; and

WHEREAS, Stonecraft is but one among his countless efforts to promote the Maryville-Alcoa-Townsend area through tourism; having served as President of the Blount County Chamber of Commerce and numerous other Boards and Commissions, Mr. Stone has won numerous awards in recognition of his service to area tourism; and

WHEREAS, in September of 2000, he was honored at the Tennessee Governor's Conference on Tourism at the Chattanooga Choo-Choo as the one person in Blount County/Townsend who had contributed the most to tourism vision during the 20th century and shaped that vision to make tourism what it is to the area economy today; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stone has generously devoted his time and numerous talents to such worthy organizations as the Blount County Education Foundation and the Alcoa Schools Education Foundation, the Maryville Utilities Board, and the Pellissippi State Technical Community College Advisory Council for Economic and Community Development; he has also held leadership positions within Leadership Blount, the Blount County Chamber of Commerce, the Townsend-in-the-Smokies Chamber of Commerce, the Maryville-Alcoa Jaycees, the Alcoa Kiwanis, and the United Way of Blount County; and

WHEREAS, a Mason, he is a 50-year member of the New Providence Lodge No. 128 F&AM, whose original charter was signed by Andrew Jackson; and

WHEREAS, he has been honored as a Life Member of the Maryville-Alcoa Jaycees, as well as the Sigma Delta Chi Professional Journalism Society; and

WHEREAS, a longtime supporter of our national parks, Mr. Stone has photographed more than 30 of the major national parks in the United States, but the Great Smoky Mountains National Park most extensively; and

WHEREAS, he is Chairman of the Tennessee Great Smoky Mountains National Park Commission; he helped to found and served as President of the Foothills Parkway Association; and he is a charter member of the Great Smoky Mountains Natural History Association; and

WHEREAS, he was instrumental in the founding of Beautiful Blount (now "Keep Blount Beautiful") and the Foothills Land Conservancy, which was established to help preserve the beauty in the use of the land in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains in Blount, Sevier, and Monroe Counties; and

WHEREAS, H. Dean Stone is a veteran of World War II, during which war he served in the 363rd Infantry Regiment of the 91st Infantry Division in North Africa, Italy, and Yugoslavia; for his valiant service, he received the Combat Infantry Badge, the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the European-African-Middle East Campaign Medal with three battle stars (Rome-Arno, Northern Apennines, Po Valley), the Army Occupation Medal (Italy), the Victory Medal, and both the Presidential Unit Citation and the Meritorious Unit Citation; and

WHEREAS, during the American occupation of Yugoslavian territory, he originated the idea of raising the first American flag over Yugoslav territory and carried out the event; and

WHEREAS, for his heroic service in the fight for freedom during World War II, Mr. Stone earned the gratitude of a nation; he is now a member of the American Legion Post 13 and a charter member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Post 5154; and

WHEREAS, in May of 1997, he returned to Europe with the 134th Air Refueling Wing of the Tennessee Air National Guard based in Blount County to Pisa, Italy; he and his son were able to visit a number of sites where he had fought during the War; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stone married Agnes Shirley Stone on September 12, 1953, and the loving couple enjoyed many happy and productive years together; Mrs. Stone has since passed on to her great reward; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stone is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his son, Neal Anson Stone, and daughter-in-law, Sandra Kristy Stone; and

WHEREAS, he is further blessed with five grandsons: Derrick Anson, Drew Thomas, Forrest Dean, Skyler Kristopher, and Ashton Wallace Stone; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stone is a Deacon for the Maryville First Baptist Church and has served as Chairman of the Chilhowee Baptist Association History Committee; and

WHEREAS, he epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; for his outstanding and invaluable service to the community, Representative John J. "Jimmy" Duncan, Jr. presented Mr. Stone with a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud H. Dean Stone for his dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend H. Dean Stone for his meritorious service to the State of Tennessee as a journalist and civic leader, especially the greater Blount County community, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.